

Message Text

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42

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SUBJ: US CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT POLICY

REF STATE 132922 AND BOGOTA 3606

SUMMARY: NARCOTICS COORDINATOR DISCUSSED NEW US CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT POLICY WITH DAS CHIEF GEN MATALLANA AND WITH FLOTA GRANCOLOMBIANA VICE DIRECTOR DAVILA, MAKING POINTS SUGGESTED STATE REFTEL. BOTH RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO APPROACH AND OUTLINED STEPS (SOME PREVIOUSLY REPORTED) GOC AND GRANCOLOMBIANA ARE TAKING TO REDUCE SEABORNE NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING FROM COLOMBIA TO US. THEY ADMITTED HOWEVVER, THAT THESE LOCAL ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS WERE HAVING ONLY MARGINAL SUCCESS. END SUMMARY.

1. ACCORDING TO DAS CHIEF MATALLANA HIS AGENCY CONTINUES WORK CLOSELY WITH GRANCOLOMBIANA MANGEMENT IN ATTEMPT STIFLE SEABORNE NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING. AT GRANCOLOMBIANA REQUEST, DAS HAS AUGMENTED ITS UNDERCOVER AGENT FORCE AND NOW HAS ONE UNDERCOVER AGENT ABOARD EACH GRANCOLOMBIANAVESSEL SAILING TO US PORTS. (OUR PREVIOUSLY REPORTING INDICATED THAT, IN APRIL, ONLY THREE SUCH AGENTS WERE ASSIGNED.) DEA BOGOTA HAS SUPPLIED DAS WITH STATESIDE DEA CONTACTS WHICH CAN BE USED BY DAS UNDERCOVER MEN AT EACH US PORT OF CALL. SO FAR, THIS FLEDGLING UNDERCOVER OP HAS NETTED ONLY ONE MAJOR COCAINE SEIZURE.

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2. IN ADDITION, MATAALLANA HAS JUST CREATED A SMALL, NEW ENFORCEMENT UNIT TARGETED AT TRAFFICKERS USING THE PORT OF BUENAVENTURA, A GRANCOLOMBIANA HOME PORT WHICH SERVES CALI, ONE OF COLOMBIA'S MAJOR COCAINE PROCESSING POINTS. THIS BUENAVENTURA-BASED UNIT IS CURRENTLY COOPERATING WITH GOC CUSTOMS IN INVESTIGATING A RECENT CUSTOMS SEIZURE OF OVER ONE MILLION DOLLARS-WORTH OF MARIJUANA FROM TWO GRANCOLOMBIANA VESSELS ON-LOADING AT BUENAVENTURA. MATAALLANA SHOWED US SEVERAL INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS PREPARED BY THIS UNIT AND COMMENTED THAT GRANCOLOMBIANA CREWMEN AND OFFICERS WERE OFTEN INVOLVED IN TRAFFICKING. HE HAS SENT GRANCOLOMBIANA MANAGEMENT A LIST OF SUSPECTED CREWMEN, WHO WILL (HE ASSERTED) BE FIRED.

3. GRANCOLOMBIANA VICE DIRECTOR (SEGUNDO GERENTE) JOSE DAVILA CONFIRMED THAT HIS COMPANY SACKS OFFICERS OR CREW INVOLVED IN NARCOTICS OR OTHER TRAFFICKING. HE NOTED THAT GRANCOLOMBIANA HAS TO DATE IN 75 ALONE PAID SOME 800,000 DOLS IN US FINES FOR NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING. DAVILA ADDED THAT HIS COMPANY CONTINUES TO WORK CLOSELY WITH DAS, CUSTOMS, THE NATIONAL POLICE AND OTHER GOC AGENCIES IN AN ATTEMPT TO STOP DRUG TRAFFIC, BUT SO FAR HAS MET WITH ONLY MINIMAL SUCCESS. GRANCOLOMBIANA'S LATEST EFFORTS IN HIS REGARD, HE SAID, INVOLVED THE CREATION OF A MIXED COMMISSION HEADED BY THE COMPANY'S DIRECTOR OF NAVIGATION, CAPT RAMIREZ, A FORMER MERCHANT CAPT AND LAWYER. THIS COMMISSION--WHICH INCLUDES REPS FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRES, NATIONAL POLICE, CUSTOMS, DAS AND THE ATTORGEN'S OFFICE-- IS CHARGED WITH DRAWING UP NEW LEGISLATION AND DEVISING NEW ENFORCEMENT TECHNIQUES AIMED AT STEMMING THE FLOW OF CONTRABAND(PARTICULARLY NARCOTICS) TO AND FROM COLOMBIA. DAVILA INSTRUCTED CAPT RAMIREZ TO ESTABLISH DIRECT CONTACT WITH DEA BOGOTA AND TO SEEK DEA ASSISTANCE IN WORKIN UP STIFFER INTERNAL GRANCOLOMBIANA CONTROLS AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING.

4. FINALLY, DAVILA INFORMED US THAT GRANCOLOMBIANA WAS ALSO WORKING CLOSELY WITH A NEWLY-FORMED (JUNE 75) PORT SECURITY UNIT (POLICIA DE VIGILANCIA PORTUARIA). MEMBERS OF THIS SPECIALIZED UNIT --PART OF THE NATIONAL POLICE, BUT COMMANDED BY RETIRED ARMY OFFICERS-- ARE RESPONSIBLBLE FOR ANTI SMUGGLING PATROLS AND INVESTIGATIONS IN ALL COLOMBIAN PORTS. THE FIRST SUCH PORT POLICE OP WAS INSTITUTED INSANTA MARTA EARLIER THIS MONTH. OTHER PORTS WILL RECEIVE COVERAGE AS NEW PATROLMEN ARE GRADUATED

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FROM TRAINING SCHOOLS. MEANWHILE, DAVILA SAID, ONE OF GRANCOLOMBIANA'S BEST HOPES OF CUTTING INTO THE NARCOTICS TRAFFIC LAY IN STIFFER PENALTIES IMPOSED BY US COURTS ON GRANCOLOMBIANA'S CREWMEN CAUGHT SMUGGLING DRUGS INTO THE US. OUR COURTS, HE COMPLAINED, WERE TOO OFTEN LETTING COLOMBIANS OFF WITH A SLAP ON THE WRIST, THEREBY ENCOURAGING OTHERS TO GET INTO THE PROFITABLE NARCOTICS TRADE. VAKY

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